

5.0 SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

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A recent Phase IB archaeological investigation was conducted for two parcels of land (Parcels 6 and 7) in the archaeological APE for the SR 1 Little Heaven Grade Separated Intersection project. In general, the archaeological survey documented soil horizons in the project APE that are indicative of a historic-era plowed agricultural setting that has been impacted by increased development related to twentieth-century residential growth in the community of Little Heaven. The excavations exposed an Ap/A-horizon over a B-horizon subsoil in the developed residential portions of the APE. In some Parcel 6 STPs, it appears that A-horizons have been removed and replaced by fill layers.

Cultural materials recovered in the project APE provide evidence of prehistoric and historic-period occupations. An isolated chalcedony flake and a Wolf Neck sherd recovered from STP 2 in Area 6-5 and a stemmed projectile point found on the surface of Parcel 7 reflect Early Woodland and Late Archaic period indigenous occupations, respectively, in the project area. This trace amount of prehistoric materials does not offer any indication that subsurface deposits associated with Native American features exist in the study area. Emory (2005) notes that elsewhere in the project area the absence of projectile points or pottery in the APE hinders assigning a temporal association for the Native American artifact assemblage retrieved from Parcels 1 to 5. However, he argues that prehistoric materials recovered during the earlier session of Phase IB investigations suggest at least a Woodland II period of occupation. Therefore, the combined earlier and recent Phase IB survey has overall encountered evidence for Late Archaic, Early Woodland, and Late Woodland indigenous occupations.

Cultural materials associated with historic-period occupation were found throughout the APE. The artifact collection from Parcels 6 and 7 reflect late-nineteenth- to early-twentieth-century occupations. This is generally consistent with conclusions presented by Emory (2005), who reports that artifacts recovered from Parcels 1 to 5 reflect early-nineteenth- to early-twentieth-century temporal association, “although a few late-eighteenth-century ceramic sherds were found in the APE.” Emory also noted that the glass assemblage from Parcels 1 to 5 illustrates mid- to late-nineteenth- through twentieth-century bottle and vessel glass, with occasional fragments of

heavily patinated olive bottle glass, which suggest a late-eighteenth- to early-nineteenth-century component in the study area. No late-eighteenth-century materials were recovered from Parcels 6 or 7.

In light of chronologically mixed assemblages recovered in the study area, the recent Phase 1B survey results support Emory (2005), who states that

“(t)hese temporal and functional associations are not unexpected, as the residents in the rural agricultural nineteenth-century cross-roads community would maintain utilitarian crockery, decorated wares, glassware, jars, and other items as part of a household inventory. Twentieth-century development of Little Heaven introduced automobile parts, building materials, and other modern refuse into the artifact collection, illustrating the transition from a rural agricultural cross-roads community to a community focused on commercial enterprise along SR 1.” (Emory 2005)

Artifact assemblages recovered from fill deposits, A-horizons, and possible Ap-horizons produced no significant distribution patterns to suggest that a midden or other subsurface features were present in Parcel 6. The absence of any subsurface features associated with historic or prehistoric occupation in Parcel 6 substantiates this observation. Historic maps of Parcel 6 indicate that this section of the APE likely consisted of plowed fields or wooded ground in the nineteenth century, and that it was not developed until the early to mid-twentieth century. The general assortment of ceramics, glass, and other materials offer limited analytical potential; no archaeological resources were identified in the Phase 1B study of Parcel 6. Therefore, no further archaeological investigations are necessary in Areas 6-0 to 6-6.

After revisiting historic atlas mapping, it is possible that a historic artifact concentration discovered in the plowed field of Parcel 7 may correspond to subsurface remains of a structure, and therefore an archaeological resource may be present in Parcel 7. It is possible that the remains of a structure, possibly related to a nineteenth-century African-American post-Civil War era settlement, are located beneath the densely artifact-strewn surface in Parcel 7. Five artifact concentrations were identified during the earlier stage of Phase 1B work; the artifact cluster in Parcel 7 represents the sixth distinct artifact concentration of nineteenth- to early-twentieth-

century cultural materials recorded in the project APE (see Emory 2005 for descriptions of the other five artifact concentrations).

It is recommended that a Phase II archaeological investigation be conducted for the historic artifact concentration locus in Parcel 7. Based on the information collected in the Phase IB study, the physical remains of a structure (or perhaps its less visible counterpart, a dark soil stain associated with the outlines of a post-and-beam or sill-type foundation) may be present beneath the surface of Parcel 7. While architectural use artifacts are essentially absent in the artifact concentration, historic mapping and USGS mapping suggest the presence of a buried structure that existed minimally from 1868 to 1956. Subsurface archaeological investigation is recommended to determine the presence or absence of a structure beneath the plowzone in the locus of the historic artifact cluster in Parcel 7.

The recommendation for additional work is especially compelling, given the responsibility of cultural resource managers to potentially provide a voice to a rarely studied African-American past in Delaware. A Phase II-level archaeological investigation should be implemented to discover subsurface features, which may be associated with the above-ground artifact concentration. The study should also involve additional background research that would help to determine if the remains of an African-American settlement are present in the study area. If Phase II investigation uncovers evidence of a structure, efforts should be geared toward evaluating if those material remains are related to a former African-American settlement and toward enhancing our understanding of rural life in Little Heaven.